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House of Representatives

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN ED CASE OF HAWAII WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2005

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

Mr. Chairman, let me make four quick points on this amendment. First of all, I completely and wholeheartedly support it.

Second, the credit for this amendment goes to my colleague and the senior Democrat, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. Abercrombie) who I thank. Since I have almost all of the agriculture in my particular district, this shows teamwork.

Third, this morning, in Kahalui, Maui, the price of a premium gallon of gas was \$2.98 per gallon. Across the street from that gas station, stands one of the most highest yield sugar plantations in the whole world, a sugar plantation that is threatened across the way, threatened across the board.

If we can produce ethanol from that sugar plantation, we can kill a bunch of birds with one stone. We can preserve agriculture in this country. This is revolutionary. If we can produce meaningful energy from prickly pears, or whatever you want, from sugar, all power to it; it is going to work for all of us. If we can save the sugar industry by producing energy from the sugar industry, it will be good for us, and it will be good for many of the other issues that we care so much about. I urge adoption of this amendment.